

CLAIMS**What is Claimed is:**

- Suba7*
1. A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:
- 5 an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant cross-section throughout;
- a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first inner diameter and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis;
- 10 a second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second inner diameter and forming said second end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first bulbous section; and
- 15 a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a third inner diameter which forms an inner surface defining a center opening said third inner diameter being less than at least one of said first and second inner diameters.
2. A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, further including:
- a plurality of longitudinally spaced annular ribs extending around the periphery of said hollow elongated body to facilitate an animal gripping said pet toy with its teeth.

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3. A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
at least a portion of said side wall is deformable when an animal bites down on said pet toy with its jaw.

4. A pet toy as claimed in claim 3, further including:
a plurality of longitudinally spaced annular ribs extending around the periphery of said hollow elongated body which deflect inwardly when said side wall is deformed so that ribs on opposite sides of the jaw are engageable with opposite sides of the teeth and/or gums of the animal to aid in cleaning the teeth and massaging the gums.

Sub A8 5. A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, further including:
a rope extending through said elongated hollow body along said longitudinal axis having a fourth diameter smaller than either said first and second inner diameters and having an end with a knot formed therein which knot has a fifth diameter which is smaller than said at least one of said first and second inner diameters but is larger than said third inner diameter so that said knot can pass through said at least one of said first and second inner diameters but not pass through said third inner diameter and engages said inner surface of said center section as an anchor wherein said rope extends through the other of said at least one of said first and second openings to serve as a pull for said pet toy.

6. A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, further including:
an edible animal treat extending through and resiliently gripped in said center opening.

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7. A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, further including:
 a first edible animal treat extending through and resiliently
 gripped in said first opening; and
 a second edible animal treat extending through and resiliently
 gripped in said second opening.

8. A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, further including:
 an edible animal treat having a length greater than that of said
 elongated hollow body, said edible food treat extending through and
 resiliently gripped in said first and second openings and said center
 opening.

3 ~~3~~. A pet toy, as claimed in claim ²1, wherein:
 said first and second inner diameters are different.

4 ~~4~~. A pet toy, as claimed in claim ²1, wherein:
 said first and second inner diameters are the same.

11. A pet toy as claimed in claim 1, further including:
 a plurality of longitudinally spaced ribs extending
 peripherally around said elongated hollow body which deflect inwardly
 when said hollow elongated body is deformed by the animal's teeth so that
 ribs on opposite sides of the jaw are engageable with opposite sides of the
 teeth and/or gums to aid in cleaning the teeth and massaging the gums.

12. A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw
 exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy
 comprising:

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5 an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis
and having first and second ends and a central hollow core of substantially
constant diameter;

a first bulbous section extending along said longitudinal axis
having a first opening defining a first diameter and a first wall thickness
forming said first end of said elongated hollow body;

10 a second bulbous section extending along said longitudinal
axis and spaced from said first bulbous section, said second bulbous section
having a second opening defining a second diameter and a second wall
thickness forming said second end of said elongated hollow body; and

15 a center section extending along said longitudinal axis
between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second
bulbous section, said center section having a thin deformable side wall and
an inner surface forming a center opening of a third diameter which is less
than at least one of said first and second diameters, said thin deformable
side wall having a third thickness which is less than at least one of said first
20 and second thicknesses.

10 ~~9~~ 13. A pet toy, as claimed in claim ~~12~~ 12, wherein:
said first and second wall thicknesses are equal.

14. A pet toy, as claimed in claim 13, further including:
a plurality of longitudinally spaced annular ribs extending
around the outer periphery of said elongated hollow body to facilitate an
animal gripping said pet toy with its teeth.

15. A method of exercising the jaw of an animal while cleaning
its teeth and/or massaging its gums, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a pet toy with a hollow thin walled end section
having longitudinally spaced annular ribs;

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tossing the pet toy to the animal;

causing the animal to bite down on the hollow thin walled
end section with its teeth to deform the hollow thin walled end section so
that the ribs engage the opposite sides of the teeth and/or gums.

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